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NOTES

The last issue of *Edda*, a journal of literary research published at Christiania, Norway, ought to be known and widely read in America as one of the really significant Shakespeare contributions of the centennial year. It would seem that this journal is as yet but little known in this country, except to literary specialists, and possibly not even to all of these. And yet *Edda* is clearly one of the two or three most important literary journals published today. It is a journal of research and, as such, is planned to be a central organ for the whole of the Scandinavian North. Its editor is Professor Gerhard Gran and the "Editorial Secretary" is Dr. Francis Bull, both of Christiania University. The coöperating staff is made up of 25 Norwegian scholars, assisted by 20 Danish, 12 Swedish, 4 Finnish, and 1 Icelandic scholar; in addition to these there is a foreign staff of 12 well-known writers, as e.g., Gustave Lanson for France, H. V. Routh for England and Franz Schultz for Germany. Other foreign members of the staff are: W. A. Craigie of Oxford University, Gustav Neckel of Heidelberg, H. Logeman of Ghent, Belgium, Fr. von der Leyen of Holland, et al. The journal is published in large octavo, appears in 4 numbers a year, with a total of 640 pages. It is excellently printed and in every way attractive in appearance. The name *Edda* has been chosen because that name points back to the earliest literary-scientific treatise on Germanic soil, namely *Snorre's Edda*. While, as is natural, emphasis is laid upon investigations in modern Scandinavian literature, a good share of the space is given to studies in non-Scandinavian literature, while early European documents and medieval writers receive considerable attention. Thus the following studies may be noted: "Georg Dandin" by Werner Söderhjelm; "Jacques Jasmin" by J. K. Larsen; "Wordsworth" by V. Grønbech; Giovanni Pascoli" by H. E. Kinck; "William Butler Yeats" by Per Hallström; "Edgar Allen Poe" by Gunnar Bjurman; "Noccolo Machiavelli" by H. E. Kinck; "An Old Hindu Drama" by Sten Konow; "The Conception of Virtue in Early Greek Literature" by Emil Smith; "Fundamental Laws of the Epic" by Moltke Moe; "The Three Holy-eves, A Study in Popular Narrative Style" by Agnete Bertram; "Old Testamental Skepticism" by Johs. Pedersen; "La principales directiones de la critique et de l'histoire litterature en France" by Alfred Jolivet, etc. There have been articles dealing with Eddic lays, the Oldest Form of the Balder Saga, Danish Ballads, Early Catholic Poetry in the North, Holberg, Thorild, Wergeland, Ibsen, Bjørnson, Selma Lagerlöf, Gustaf Fröding (4 articles), M. Hansen, etc., and problems connected with the relation between Scandinavian and non-Scandinavian literature. There are also published letters of well-known writers, memoirs, etc., under a department for "Documents"; in this department there have been some new letters of Ibsen, Bjørnson and Kielland, and even of Jørgen Moe and Adam Oehlenschläger. There is promised for an early issue some correspondence between Asbjørnson, the collector of folk-tales, and the Brothers Grimm. Every issue contains one or more reviews of recent non-Scandinavian literature; in this field there was recently a long article on American literature by Prof. O. J. Campbell. Articles are printed in a Scandinavian language or in English, French or German. The contents of the Shakespeare issue can be briefly noted here. There is an article by

C. H. Herford on "Shakespeare's Treatment of Love and Marriage"; by Johan Mortensen on "Hamlet"; by Niels Møller on "Shakespeare at Work"; by Vilh. Grønbech on "Shakespeare and the Pre-Shakespearian Drama"; by Ch. Bastide on "La France et les Français dans le théâtre de Shakespeare"; by Marie Luise Gothein on "Der lebendige Schauplatz in Shakespeares Dramen"; by William B. Cairns on "Shakespeare in America"; by W. P. Ker on "The Form of Shakespeare's Comedies"; by O. Walzel on "Aufzugsgrenzen in Dramen Shakespeares," etc. The first and longest study is that by the Norwegian literary historian Chr. Collin, who under the title "Fra Shakespeare-tidens Idékamp" treats of the 'Battle of Ideas in Shakespeare's Age' and studies Shakespeare as a poet of problems. Collin shows that Shakespeare thought much about three of the most fundamental of life's problems, and tried to solve them or gain greater clearness for himself in regard to them by translating them into living men and women engaged in the battle of life. These three ideas are: 1, that of how far it pays to be good and rather suffer whatever it be than commit a wrong; 2, that of the true type of the ruler and the leader and the true art of government; 3, that of the world-order (Verdensstyrelsen). Collin hasn't much good to say for G. B. Shaw's anti-Shakespearian articles in the *Saturday Review* in 1895 and 1898. After quoting Shaw's utterances he concludes: "Thus speaks one of the wittiest of the disciples of Shakespeare's philosophical clowns, first court fool of king Demos, and at the same time one of the wits of the Fabian Society, economist of economists, philosopher, popular orator, theatrical and musical critic, writer of good plays seasoned by learning from the grand reading room of the British Museum, specialist in Wagner and Ibsen, proclaimer of a new idea of God (patterned freely after Samuel Butler the Younger), so versatile and so prominent, and to such an extent unwilling to put his candles under a bushel that I myself am on the point of forgetting Shakespeare for Shaw, as Shaw does in his Shakespeare criticisms" (translated).

GEORGE T. FLOW.

July, '16.